

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUSPENDING COMMUNICATION  
WITH A HARD DISK DRIVE IN ORDER TO TRANSFER DATA RELATING TO  
THE HARD DISK DRIVE

5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and apparatus are provided for suspending communications with a hard disk drive in order to transfer data relating to the hard disk drive between the host and an intermediate communications gateway, thereby isolating the hard disk drive from the bus while this data is transferred. The data transferred between the host and the intermediate communications gateway may include control signals transferred from the host to the  
10 intermediate communications gateway and status signals transferred from the intermediate communications gateway to the host. In one embodiment, normal communications with an IDE hard disk drive are suspended upon the assertion of the RESET line of the AT bus. As such, the state of the RESET line may be controlled such  
15 that the RESET line is no longer merely utilized as a system reset but, instead, is used to define the state of communications between the host and the hard disk drive.

CLT01/4494147v1